

I own the Lewis School of Driving in New Canaan.

I received the following reply from Senator Bartolomeo's office referring the above bill:

"The intent of the bill is simply to make the current required training more accessible and less cost-prohibitive for the many (adult) applicants who do not have the financial resources because they are low-income or unemployed--and need a driver's license to get to work or to qualify for a job. Training would still have to be provided by a certified instructor...the bill proposes lower-cost options for presenting the course."

If the driver instructor that proposed the bill is so concerned about cost factors involved in the process they could simply offer the existing course at a reduced cost. There are many schools that offer discounts and scholarships for students on an "as needed" basis. This 8 hour class is the only mandated driver education required for the new adult driver and the quality and in depth discussion available in a classroom environment offers a more complete education to make sure these new drivers are fully educated in rules and risks on the road. The class is not just the student listening but an interactive classroom environment that allows growth and questions related to the drivers new experiences on the road.

If cost is truly the driving factor behind the bill and the presenter of this bill is truly concerned on the new driver being able to afford to drive to work, do they also have bills coming forward to discuss reduced gas, car and insurance?

This bill does not take a safe approach to truly educating our new drivers that will be sharing the road with all of us. This is not a time to cut corners on such a complex, responsible and potentially deadly task as driving a motor vehicle in the State of Ct.

We should not be offering a lesser classroom experience to a client just because they can't afford the better product which is in person and in classroom education.

I thoroughly disagree with this bill.

Marie Trant

Lewis School of Driving